



CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI



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## **KANSAS CITY MUSEUM FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDERS FOR #MAKINGAMUSEUMKC**

(KANSAS CITY, Mo.) — The Kansas City Museum Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, announced today that it has received funding in the first quarter of 2018 from J.E. Dunn Construction Co., The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation to support the design of exhibitions for Corinthian Hall. These funders are the most recent to support Making A Museum KC (#MakingAMuseumKC), an initiative to raise private funding for the design, development, and implementation of interpretive exhibitions, as well as public and education programs for the Kansas City Museum. Additional major funding is being provided by the R.A. Long Foundation, the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust, Katrina and Tom Henke in honor of Betty Milbank Waldrop, and The Sunderland Foundation.

The Kansas City Museum Foundation will continue its efforts to raise awareness and funding for the Kansas City Museum in 2018 and 2019, and in support of this, the Kansas City Museum Foundation Board has recently welcomed its newest member, Eric L. Wesson, who is a business owner, motivational speaker, political consultant, radio talk show host, producer, and award-winning journalist for *The Call*, a historic newspaper established in 1919. Board Members also include Chair Dr. Mary Davidson, Vice Chair Kevin Pistilli, Treasurer Katrina Henke, and Allen Dillingham and Shannon Cade, who also serve on the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

The Kansas City Museum Foundation's private fundraising is now supporting Stage I Construction, which kicked off on October 10, 2017, and includes all four floors of Corinthian Hall (the mansion) with an estimated completion date of 2020. The \$12,000,000 construction budget has been secured through public funding, including \$8,000,000 over two fiscal years (FY18 and FY19) in funding from the GO KC Bonds, approved by voters in April 2017, as well as \$4,000,000 from the Museum Mill Levy. The Kansas City Museum Foundation is raising private funds for the design, development, and implementation of exhibitions and programs.

In April 2018, the Kansas City Museum kicks off exhibition design and development with Gallagher & Associates, an internationally recognized museum design firm that produced the Museum's Visitor Experience Plan in 2017. This document identifies the core interpretive and thematic stories for exhibitions and programs, and it sets the parameters for exhibition design and development. The remainder of 2018 will be a busy and exciting time for the Kansas City Museum staff as they work with International Architects Atelier (the lead, primary architectural design firm for the project), Gallagher & Associates, City and Parks colleagues, and a team of local historians, curators, educators, and artists to create the print and digital content and interactive technologies for the interpretive experiences.

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With the start of exhibition design, the Kansas City Museum Foundation has launched a new website, [www.makingamuseumkc.org](http://www.makingamuseumkc.org). The new website promotes Making A Museum KC (#MakingAMuseumKC), an innovative fundraising initiative that began last May and supports the Kansas City Museum's expansive renovation project to create a leading-edge 21st century museum of Kansas City's history and cultural heritage. By sharing plans, progress, and importance of the project with the public, [www.makingamuseumkc.org](http://www.makingamuseumkc.org) provides a platform to raise private dollars to leverage public support for Stage I Construction to the Kansas City Museum, which is owned by the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and operated and managed by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department.

The site, which was created in collaboration with [Fire Engine Design Studios](#), lists Honorary Campaign Members and Chairs, as well as hosts the Museum's completed Visitor Experience Plan. Site visitors are able to view floorplans, watch a video message from the Honorary Campaign Chairs, and make tax-deductible, restricted contributions to the Museum's renovation project. As the Kansas City Museum further implements its Visitor Experience Plan and advances the exhibit design and development process, the Making A Museum KC website will be updated to show the project's progress.

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### BACKGROUND

Located at 3218 Gladstone Boulevard in the Historic Northeast community of Kansas City, Missouri, the Kansas City Museum is comprised of five original buildings, including the mansion Corinthian Hall, which was built in 1910 by Robert Alexander Long. The estate became a public museum in 1940. It is owned by the City of Kansas City, Missouri and operated and managed by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department. The Collection contains more than 100,000 artifacts and several thousand more archival materials that interpret Kansas City's local and regional history.

The Kansas City Museum is in the process of architectural design development to create a premier museum of Kansas City's history through a multi-year, multi-staged restoration and renovation project. International Architects Atelier is the lead architectural design firm, and J.E. Dunn Construction Co. is the Construction Manager. Museum Management Consultants produced the Museum's Strategic and Business Plans, which were adopted in Fall 2016, and Gallagher & Associates produced the Museum's Visitor Experience Plan that provides the parameters for exhibition design and development.

The Kansas City Museum Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to develop initiatives, convene leaders, and mobilize resources through inclusive partnerships to support the mission, vision, values, and strategic priorities of the Kansas City Museum.



Screenshot of the home page for [www.MakingAMuseumKC.org](http://www.MakingAMuseumKC.org). Visitors to the site can learn how to contribute to making history with the Kansas City Museum.



Supporters of #MakingAMuseumKC, the Kansas City Museum's capital campaign initiative pose for a photo at the Construction Kickoff Ceremony in October 2017.